

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 20-21 and 24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 24 are amended. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Office Action Objects to Claim 24 Because of Informalities

Claim 24 is amended to obviate the rejection. Further, claims 1 and 24 are amended to correct the additional informalities. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 24 is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-8, 20-21 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by W098/16868 to Murade (hereinafter "Murade"); and claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Murade in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,316,960 to Watanabe (hereinafter "Watanabe"). The Office Action refers to the English language equivalent, U.S. Patent No. 6,573,955, of Murade in making the rejection. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Murade does not disclose that the semiconductor portion protruding out of the channel region and not being covered with the gate electrode only connects directly with the channel region, as recited in claims 1 and 24.

Instead, Murade discloses a liquid crystal device including a substrate 10, pixel electrodes 14, scanning lines 2, data lines 3, transistors disposed at intersections between the data lines 3 and the scanning lines 2 where the data lines 3 and the scanning lines 2 cross, gate electrodes (portion of scanning line 2 in the crossing area), and semiconductor layers 1. See Figs. 5 and 6. Murade also discloses that each semiconductor layer 1 includes a source region 1a connected to a pixel electrode 14 through a contact hole 5, a drain region 1b connected to a data line 3 through a contact hole 4, channel regions 1c, and semiconductor portions protruding out of a channel region and not being cover with the gate electrode. See Figs. 5 and 6.

As disclosed in Figure 5, there are several semiconductor portions that protrude out of the channel regions 1c. The first semiconductor portion is located between the contact hole 5 and the channel region 1c covered by the data line 3. The first semiconductor portion is connected to the data line 3 via the source region 1a and the contact hole 5. A second semiconductor portion is a U-shaped portion of the semiconductor 1 located between the two channel regions 1c. Other semiconductor portions are directly connected to the pixel electrode 14 via drain region 1b.

In order for the semiconductor layer 1 to provide the channel regions 1c of the pixel TFT, the semiconductor layer 1 intersects twice with the scanning line 2, and the channel regions 1c formed at those intersections are connected in series. See col. 13, lines 56-58. Therefore, the second U-shaped semiconductor portion protruding out of the channel region 1c and not being covered with the gate electrode connects to both channel regions 1c. Thus, Murade does not disclose that the protruding semiconductor portions only connect directly

with a channel region disposed under the gate electrode as required by the invention recited in claims 1 and 24 of the present application.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 24 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-8 and 20-21, which depend from claim 1, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

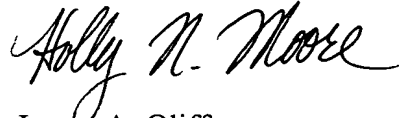
Further, claims 1 and 24 are amended to correct the additional informalities. No new matter has been added.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-8, 20-21 and 24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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